

Happy Holiday Season

Department of Conservation

Communique'

Volume III, Number 7

Sacramento, January 1973

*Holiday scenes from one end
of the state . . .
to the other*

Season's greetings are expressed in this decorated scene at San Bernardino Ranger Unit headquarters.



Shasta Red Fir

This is the official Christmas tree on display in the Redding headquarters office of Forestry's Sierra Cascade District. The Shasta Red Fir was brought from Latour State Forest and FPO Joe Caporusso credits the district office gals with the decoration work.

Sacramento--A long-range plan calls for expenditure of more than \$700,000 over a three-year period for safety equipment for Division of Forestry personnel.

The goal, as expressed by Director Ray Hunter, State Forester Lew Moran and Chief Deputy Larry Richey, is to provide Forestry Schedule A and Schedule B personnel "with the necessary protection to make the hazardous nature of the fire environment as safe as possible."

Ranger Bob Green is in charge of gathering data on Nomex jump suits, turnout coats and self-contained breathing apparatus. Ranger Bob Ford has made valuable suggestions on design features for jump suits and turnout coats and jackets.

Once safety clothing is received by station personnel, line management--especially rangers I, fire captains and fire apparatus engineers--is to see that it is maintained for use and worn whenever needed to avoid potential injuries.

Forestry Safety Coordinator Cash Hooper said that to date the "weakest link" in the division's safety program has been in getting first-line supervisors to see to it that employees comply with safety regulations. "The prestige of owning such gear and simply keeping it stored on a truck as a permanent fixture will do little in preventing injuries," Hooper said.

What's ahead in safety gear for CDF?



Rangers Bob Ford, left, and Bob Green examine examples of personal protective gear under study by the Division of Forestry. Ranger Warren Ristow, center, models a three-quarter-length Nomex turnout coat.

DMG aide will enter Daughters of Charity

By Wilma Ashby

Los Angeles--Cathy Govaller, sweet, young clerk-typist II in the Los Angeles district office of the Division of Mines and Geology has made a big decision: she separated from state service on Nov. 30 to enter St. Vincent de Paul Society's Daughters of Charity.

Cathy has her degree in English from California State University, Los Angeles, and hopes to teach or to work with senior citizens, although her future assignments are uncertain. Her favorite spot in California is Big Sur.

Cathy, who was first employed by the state in November 1969, has continued her education by attending night classes throughout her career. Her pleasant personality was a great asset to the LA office; she received many compliments for her helpfulness. She has a flair for writing, especially witticisms appropriate to the happening and geology.

It was through her efforts in 1970 that the LA DMG office won the department's savings bond award. The entire division extends best wishes to Cathy.



Cathy Govaller

... will become nun

A discussion of management problems

Sacramento--Management problems, such as those involving accounting, budgeting and personnel question, will be discussed at a seminar for field administrative and operations officers of the Department of Conservation.

Assistant Director Al Roxburgh said a date for the session has not yet been selected.

Included as participants will be ad-

ministrative and operations officers in Forestry headquarters and districts, district and regional oil and gas supervising engineers and district geologists for the Division of Mines and Geology.

Also involved will be department personnel and fiscal officers.

The goal, said Roxburgh, is to "simplify the vast paperwork procedures."

The bear is a pig?

Colfax, Placer Co.--"So that's why they call you pigs," a youngster told Fire Apparatus Engineer Bob Fries after examining his Division of Forestry badge following a holiday parade here.

The comment was made while Fries and other uniformed members of the Colfax crew were standing by their fire truck after participating in the parade. The youngster walked up to the FAE but, at first, didn't speak. "He just reached up and grabbed my badge so he could see it better."

"After all the people within hearing had stopped laughing I explained to him that the animal depicted on my badge is a bear--not a pig," Fries said.

Camp staff catches escaper

Auburn--An inmate who fled Iron Mine Conservation Camp on Dec. 7 was pursued and taken into custody by Ranger Bill Merle, the camp superintendent, and Fire Crew Foreman Ed Nelson.

Stream clearance work

Klamath--Corpsmen from the new Del Norte Ecology Center here are working on a 1.5-mile stretch of Mill Creek to eliminate blockages which could interfere with salmon and steelhead spawning activity.

Rough voyage



Fire captains sail the Pacific

Felton--Captains Bob Toler and Terry Sproul of the San Mateo-Santa Cruz Ranger Unit sailed the 35-foot *Gitana* from Hawaii to San Francisco during October. It wasn't an easy voyage.

With Toler and Sproul was Roger Gray, a professional skipper from Hawaii. The *Gitana*, purchased in Hawaii by Toler was sailed to California as a condition of sale.

Aboard the *Gitana* as crew, Toler and Sproul braved the Pacific for the 30-day journey. They left Waikiki Oct. 4 and saw little but water, waves and clouds for a solid month.

Only seven or eight other ships were sighted and that was when they were near land. Whales, dolphins and flying fish were seen by the crew, but no sharks.

The weather was cloudy most of the time but would clear up enough to make sightings for navigation purposes. When not on watch, time was spent trying to sleep and all hands were needed for changing sail and repairing storm damage.

On Friday the 13th, they hit a storm which tore their mainsail. It took three days of sewing to get it fixed. Exactly half-way home, they were becalmed and Sproul swam in the warm waters of the mid-Pacific. "It was an eerie feeling to see the boat drift away when I was swimming," said Sproul, "and realize I was one thousand miles from land."

Seven or eight hundred miles out, they were hit from the northeast by the Santana winds. This pushed them south for 10 days to a latitude about that of the tip of Baja California.

Both Toler and Sproul are experienced sailors. Toler said their voyage was considered one of the roughest in the world because the natural currents and winds were against them. "Sailing the opposite direction, from California to Hawaii, takes only a couple of weeks because many things are in your favor," he said.

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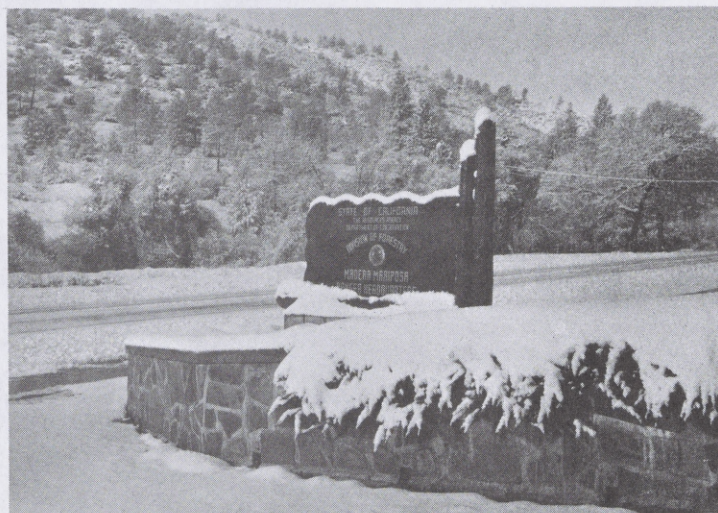
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Mariposa's live--and decorated--redwood Christmas tree.



Madera-Mariposa Ranger Unit headquarters is a "Mother Nature" showcase. "We feel that we have a very beautiful setting here in Mariposa with the Sierra Nevada mountains for a background," says Ranger James Turner.

--Photo by Dave Dituri

New system for policy letters

Sacramento--In order to more efficiently transmit substantive matters of departmental policy, Director Ray Hunter this month inaugurated a new system of distributing Director's Policy Letters.

The policy letter system began two years ago as a method of issuing policy statements to assistant directors and division chiefs.

Under the new system, policy letters signed by Hunter will carry a code designating them for distribution as follows:

Distribution A--to all division chiefs, assistant directors and assistants to the director.

Distribution B--to all reporting units in the department.

Distribution C--to all employee organizations representing Department of Conservation employees.



Clerk's son chosen for choir

San Bernardino--The Division of Forestry's Nancy Weatherbie, senior clerk at the San Bernardino Ranger Unit headquarters, is walking around these days with a great big smile. She learned that her son, U. S. Army Specialist Ron Parker, has just been accepted as a member of the world-renowned Dutch Maastreechter Staar Choir, marking only the fourth time in the 92-year history of the choir that a foreigner has sung with the group.

For those of you who may not be familiar with the choir, it ranks third in importance of all the choirs in the World.

Nancy was heard asking as she left the office one cold and blustery evening, "What better Christmas present could a mother ask for than her own son be accepted as a member of the Maastreechter Staar Choir?"--JWH.

Senate approves

Sacramento--The appointment of Ray B. Hunter as director of the Department of Conservation has been confirmed by the State Senate.

The Senate also confirmed Gov. Reagan's appointment of former Director Jim Stearns as secretary of the Agriculture & Services Agency.

Putting on the dog for fire prevention

By Dick Ernest

Riverside--One of the most unique events yet for the Southern California District took place earlier this year when Smokey Bear presented a Dalmatian puppy during a fan appreciation night to a Dodger fan with a lucky ticket.

It all started when a request was received from Red Patterson, vice president of the Los Angeles Dodgers, asking if Smokey could make the presentation. The answer was "yes"--but little did Division of Forestry personnel who had the responsibility of carrying out this fire prevention promotion realize the problems they would encounter.

First of all, there was the question of how and where to get the money to buy the Dalmatian. Secondly, how would it be cared for up to the night it would be given away? And last--but not least--what would they do if the fan who won the dog decided he (she) didn't want to take it home?

Solving first problem

After several weeks of walking the floor, calling every kennel in the area--and a slight nervous breakdown--a pedigreed Dalmatian puppy was miraculously acquired when the Alta Loma-Cucamonga Junior Women's Club came through in a clinch with \$75 for the purchase. Before the puppy could receive his shots, he had to be named, and was therefore given the handle "Arnold." Now that we had him, Problem No. 1 was solved. He was returned to the district office and held in the warehouse pending the next strategic move.

Following the purchase of a leash, collar and \$3 worth of dog food, Michael O. Schori, deputy state forester for the Southern California District, through the goodness of his heart, suggested that he take the puppy home and have his little boy, Jeffrey, care for it until the day came for the presentation. Check off Problem No. 2; however, this was only the forerunner of events to come.

Jeffrey, on the last day that he was to have the dog, decided that it might be well to stay out of school that day to see if things went OK. He had become quite attached to the dog and wanted to be handy in case we changed our minds. His father, however, assured him that the puppy would be in good hands and well taken care of.

Arnold was transported first class in the state forestry sedan to the Dodger Stadium. He was escorted through the VIP gate and walked by all the hot dog stands where he decided he would sit out the game when his scent caught the aroma of freshly cooking hot dogs. From this point, he had to be hand-carried to the Dodger dugout where he was to remain with the players until after the game when the presentations were made.

Baseball pals

During the nine innings of baseball, several Dodger ball players, including Maury Wills, Dodger shortstop, became well acquainted with Arnold, and I suppose that Arnold figured he had found a home.

Following the baseball game, Arnold was escorted through the Dodger dressing room and down the pathway leading to the dugout where he appeared on the in-field with Smokey Bear. Upon his appearance, he received a tremendous hand from the

38,000 Los Angeles Dodger baseball fans. Arnold seemed quite content, particularly being on fresh grass, and ended up making a spectacle of himself before the presentation was made.

However, all in all, things went well. Arnold was won by Ed Roy of Manhattan Beach, who was quite happy and enthused. He said that this was the best day in all of his visits to Dodger Stadium. (Problem No. 3 went out with a sigh of relief.)

Joe DeLucchi of the California Fire Prevention Committee had made the arrangements with the Dodger organization for this fire prevention promotion, and with his help and that of the Junior Women's Club, the promotion was extremely successful.

Arnold was given to his new owner along with the registration and pedigree papers, and as of the last check, is doing very well at his new home in Manhattan Beach.



Arnold, the Dalmatian puppy, obviously has an eye for a pretty girl--who, in this case, is Peg Malouff, president of the Alta Loma-Cucamonga Junior Women's Club in southern California. Jill Ritchie, the club's conservation chairman, is on the left and Ed Roy of Manhattan Beach is next to Smokey--and Peg.

Susanville center will close

Antelope will continue; training shifts to Jamestown

Susanville--The full affect of the proposed closure of California Conservation Center on the Division of Forestry camp operations here has yet to be determined, the state forester's office has announced.

The Department of Corrections announced Dec. 10 that the minimum-security facility would close July 1, 1973. Closure was prompted by the continued decline in the availability of minimum security-type inmates.

Director Procnier said the Susanville facility has been operating with less than 700 inmates throughout this year although it has a capacity of 1,200.

As far as Forestry's operations at Susanville are concerned, present plans are to continue Antelope Conservation Camp. Present plans also include shifting the training activity from Susanville to Sierra Conservation Center at Jamestown,

Tuolumne County.

"Obviously some adjustments in staffing will be required. All viable alternatives are being explored to minimize the impact on affected employees," the state forester's office said. It was emphasized, however, that the existing policy of *no layoffs* will continue.

Meanwhile, the state forester's office added, affected employees in Susanville will be kept informed of developments and maximum lead will be given for personal adjustments.

Opened in 1963

The dormitory-type Susanville center, which cost \$10.1 million to build, was opened in 1963 as a training center for low-risk inmates who were to be assigned to one of the conservation camps in northern California.

The Department of Corrections said the center's 270 employees will be assigned to new jobs elsewhere within the prison system.

New faces at DMG's capital office

Sacramento--During the past six months, the Sacramento district office of the Division of Mines and Geology has welcomed four new members to its staff.

Beryl Adrian came to work after Sherry Bly left to work as secretary for the Department of Health Care Services. Beryl was born in Kansas but traveled everywhere from Port Alexander, Alaska, to Florida and Nevada before graduating from Winnemucca High School. Since then, Beryl has held various secretarial jobs in the field of engineering including a position in the chemical engineering and laser group of Aerojet in Azusa.

She worked for the National Weather Service for 2 1/2 years before coming to work for the division. Over the years, she has attended various night classes in journalism and geology. As an avid rockhound and fan of geology and lapidary, Beryl has finally fulfilled an ambition of long-standing by coming to work for the division.

Ernest Durrwachter, one of the division's new geologic aids, was graduated from Yakima, Wash., High School in 1935. He joined the U. S. Air Force in 1941 and served as an instrument technician during World War II. After retiring from the air force in 1961, he worked from 1962-65 as plant operator for the Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District. In 1966 he left this job to establish a cleaning business in Vallejo. During this time, Durrwachter attended Solano and Marin Junior Colleges where he completed 78 course units, including several in the field of earth science. Durrwachter was hired by the division to replace Chuck Sloanaker, who left Sacramento to take a librarian job in Oregon.

Attends conference

Seattle, Wash.--Deputy State Forester John Hastings was among the participants at the 63rd annual meeting of the Western Forestry Conference here in early December. Hastings will be chairman of the Western Forest Fire Committee for the 1973 conference, which will be in San Jose. Bob Weaver will be committee secretary.

Personnel office aides appointed

Sacramento--The Department of Conservation has two new associate personnel analysts--Jim Catania and Don Cully.

Catania has been a member of the Personnel Office staff since July 1, Personnel Officer Omer L. King Jr. said the new staffer came to the department from service as an assistant personnel analyst at the State Personnel Board.

Catania, pronounced "ka-tawn-ya," began his career in state service in 1968 as a student intern for the SPB.

Catania, 25, spent the last two years of his 3 1/2 years at the SPB. His first 18 months were spent in the Training Division, where he assisted in the first training efforts in the program budgeting system.

Catania graduated from California State University, Sacramento, in social science and government. He was married in October.

Cully joined the staff on Dec. 8. He came from the SPB, where he has had examining, classification and pay experience with the clerical and allied classes, and assignments in working in program development and evaluation.

Don, a graduate of the University of Maryland, majored in business administration. He settled in California and entered state service after completing a tour in the navy.

CDFEA elects

Banghart president

Monterey--Forester Don Banghart of Redding has been named 1973 president of the California Division of Forestry Employees Assn. He replaces Bud Armstrong, CDFEA president for the past two years.

Also elected was Don Holt, Orange Ranger Unit, vice president; and Don Olday, Fresno, treasurer.



Don Banghart

Astronaut was Campbell student

Cape Kennedy--Special guests at the launch of Apollo 17 here on Dec. 7 included Dr. Ian Campbell, longtime California state geologist and former interim director of the Department of Conservation.

Dr. Campbell was the guest of a former geology student of his--astronaut Harrison (Jack) Schmitt.

Goings elected to board

Cameron Park, El Dorado Co.--Ranger Dick Goings of Placerville has been elected director of the Cameron Park Community Services District. The board provides fire protection and lighting services for the foothill subdivision in western El Dorado County.

Don Rodgers, recently hired as associate seismologist, was born in Brentwood, Tex., but spent most of his younger life in Santa Cruz. In 1967 Rodgers received his B.A. degree in geophysics from University of California, Berkeley.

He then attended Brown University in Rhode Island, where he completed the M.Sc. degree in 1969. During this time, he was a teaching and research assistant for the university. Although Rodgers has been working for the division since May 1972 he is, through correspondence, continuing his work towards the Ph.D. degree from Brown University.

Gary Taylor, another new geologic aid, was graduated from Owens Valley High School. He then attended Fresno State University where he received his B.A. degree in geology in 1971. From 1971 until the time he was hired by the division, Taylor worked as a geological engineer in mine surveying and core drilling for the Mexicanus-Colorado Mining Co.

Division of Forestry

Transfers--Ed Brown, SFR; Larry Kidd, Cord Voge, Harry Frakes, all FCF, all to Norco Conservation Camp; George A. Williams, FPO I from Siskiyou to Butte Ranger Unit.

Promotions--Thomas E. Tarp, from fire captain at Morgan Hill to fire crew foreman at Konoti Conservation Camp; L. R. Beck to ranger I, Inyo Ecology Center.

Division of Mines & Geology

Promotions--Trinda L. Bedrossian to junior geologist, Sacramento headquarters.

Information Office

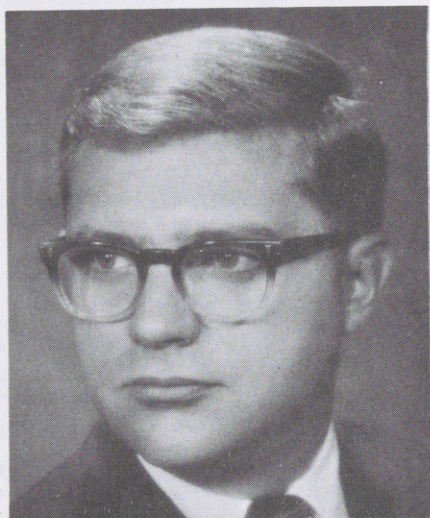
Appointments--Ramon de la Guardia, University of California at Davis; and Frank Dowd, California State University, Sacramento, as student assistants; Kathy Shirol, Work Processing Center (return from medical leave.)

Personnel Program Development

Appointments--Faith Barkis, clerical; Cherie Carson, assistant employment opportunities officer.

Separations--Donald Cary, assistant employment opportunities officer, to Dept. of Finance; Shelley Lovejoy, resigned.

Hill deputy for Stearns



A. Alan Hill

New agency assignment

Sacramento--A. Alan Hill, former deputy director of the Department of Conservation, has been named deputy secretary for the Agriculture and Services Agency.

Hill will thus serve as No. 1 aide to Secretary James G. Stearns, who was director of Conservation during Hill's tenure as deputy director. Hill was deputy from January 1971-July 1972, when he resigned to undertake a special assignment outside of state government.

Hill previously served as assistant to Resources Secretary Norman B. Livermore Jr. and as an aide to onetime State Sen. John F. McCarthy of Marin County.

Fires up 20 percent in 1972

By Bill Harrington

Forestry Information Officer

Sacramento--Statistics show that 8,910 fires occurred during the 1972 fire season in California lands protected by the Division of Forestry and the U. S. Forest Service.

This represents an increase of 20 pct. over the five-year average of 7,400 fires in California. The acreage burned in 1972 was 103,360 acres--slightly over the five-year average of 204,450 acres.

The dry spring conditions that brought an early fire season and a hot, dry summer to most parts of the state contributed significantly to the higher fire incidence.

Effective fire suppression using modern techniques and equipment must be given credit for keeping the burned acreage at approximately half the five-year average in a year that had all the ingredients for severe fire conditions.

55,000 man-hours

Youth wards spent busy summer on the fire lines

Special to the Communique'

Youthful wards assigned by the California Youth Authority to conservation camps operated jointly with the Division of Forestry racked up more than 55,000 man-hours fighting fires in California's forests and foothills during the now-ended 1972 fire season.

The firefighters were based in four conservation camps -- Washington Ridge, near Nevada City, where wards registered 15,000 hours on the fire lines; Mt. Bullion near Mariposa, 19,000 hours; Pine Gove, near Jackson, 17,800 hours; and Ben Lomond near Santa Cruz, 9,000 hours.

The Youth Authority opened a fifth conservation camp two months ago at Oak Glen near Yucipa in Riverside County, but the crews will not be ready to fight fires there until the 1973 season.

Actually, despite the impressive total of firefighting hours, the past fire season was considered a fairly light one by the Youth Authority and Division of Forestry staffs who jointly operate the conservation camps. In 1971, for example, Ben Lomond crews spent 21,000 hours on the fire lines, more than twice the total this past year.

Capacity of 80

Each of the conservation camps has a capacity of 80 young men, most of them from 18-21 years of age. They are assigned there by the Youth Authority on the basis of their need for work experience,

although the conservation camps now have an academic teaching program as well as work training. Most receive advance basic training at the DeWitt Nelson Training Center at Stockton.

In addition to firefighting, youths in the conservation camps also engage in ecological tasks such as stream and brush clearing, park maintenance and other duties which are assigned by the Division of Forestry. For their work, they receive a daily stipend averaging approximately 75 cents plus 30 cents an hour for overtime hours spent on the fire lines.

Big Sur

The summer fire season is the busy time for the camps, and crews are apt to be dispatched to any part of the state if there is a major blaze. Three of the four operating camps dispatched crews, for example, to the big fire in the Big Sur area and the Youth Authority Board held a special parole hearing at the fire base for several of the youths who were manning the lines.

Two years ago, an entire crew barely escaped being trapped by flames during the Malibu fire, but there were no close calls or serious injuries this year. The most seriously injured CYA youth, in fact, was a Pine Grove ward who was scalded while taking a shower after helping fight a blaze in Redding. He was hospitalized briefly at the Preston School of Industry hospital.



Silver in the Mother Lode

Ranger Dick Day officiated at 25-year award ceremonies honoring Ranger Al Munson (center) and Mary K. Serra, San Andreas headquarters stenographer. An assistant ranger for 23 years, Al has supervised the Altaville district since 1955. In 1932 Mary spent her honeymoon on Sierra Vista Lookout with her husband Dave and officially joined CDF ranks in 1947 in the same job she holds today.

Rules firmed on uniform allowance payments

By Jim Catania

Department Personnel Office

Sacramento--The Board of Control rules governing the new annual uniform replacement allowance became effective Dec. 1 and are retroactive to Aug. 15. Division of Forestry employees that have been employed continuously since Aug. 15, 1971, and meet the Board of Control regulations listed below are now eligible for the uniform replacement allowance.

1--The employee must be required to wear the uniform for the regular fulltime performance of his duties; and

2--The uniform is clearly necessary for ready visual identification by the public for law enforcement, public safety (includes fire suppression) or other closely related purposes; and

3--The uniform is authorized for wear only in an official capacity; and

4--The employee must have probationary or fulltime civil service status. An employee who accepted a

limited-term or TAU appointment and who has permanent or probationary status in another class is also eligible.

Based upon these Board of Control regulations the employees in the following list of classes working in field locations (excluding district headquarters) or at the Division of Forestry Fire Academy, Davis Nursery and Davis Equipment Facility are eligible for uniform replacement allowances:

\$142 allowance--Associate state forest ranger, heavy fire equipment operator, junior forester, state forest ranger I, SFR II, SFR III, SFR IV, fire control aid, fire apparatus engineer, fire captain, fire crew foreman, fire prevention officer I, FPO II, FPO IV, fireman CDF, forester I, forester II, forester III, forestry field trainee, forestry graduate trainee.

\$120 allowance--Equipment maintenance foreman, heavy equipment mechanic.

Section 1187.2 (b) of the Manual of Instructions stipulates that division and district headquarters employees are only required to wear the uniform when performing work in the field. Since their

requirement is not full-time, district and headquarters personnel do not meet the Board of Control regulations for uniform allowance.

The division is considering a change in their uniform requirements for district personnel.

Payments

Payments for the uniform replacement allowance will be made annually to eligible employees on their uniform allowance eligibility date provided they have completed one full year of state service in one of the eligible uniform classifications. Annual uniform replacement allowances are not subject to federal income tax.

Procedures for verification and claiming of the annual uniform replacement allowance will be as follows:

1--Each month, the Department Personnel Office (DPO) will generate a list of all potential eligible employees by reporting unit and position.

2--The DPO will send the list to each field personnel reporting unit for verification of eligibility.

3--The reporting unit manager I verify the eligibility of each listed employee according to the requirements stated in the official directive. Each unit manager should also list and recommend addition or deletion of any employees as appropriate on a separate page. This list requires a certification signature by the reporting unit manager.

4--The verified list will be returned within five working days to the DPO for audit, forwarded to the Department Accounting Office for preparation of claim schedules and sent to the state controller for issuance of the allowance checks.

Promotions for 4 geologists

Sacramento--Two Division of Mines and Geology geologists, Chuck Armstrong and Trinda Bedrossian, were promoted to junior geologist and two others, Forrest Bacon and Al Barrows, will become associate geologists beginning Jan. 1.

Armstrong, presently working the San Francisco district office, graduated from East Grand Rapids High School, Michigan, and then attended Michigan State University, where he received his B.S. degree in 1964. In 1967 he received his M.S. degree from the University of Nevada and was hired as hydrologist by the Smithe Co. in San Francisco. Armstrong came to work for the division in 1971.

Miss Bedrossian, member of the Geo Data Group in the headquarters office, was born on the island of Trinidad but grew up near Philadelphia. She received her B.A. degree in geology from the College of Wooster, Ohio, in 1969 and completed her M.S. degree in geology in 1970 at University of California, Davis. Although Trinda has been working for the division since 1970, she is presently continuing her work towards the Ph.D. degree from UCD.

Bacon came to the division in 1970 and worked in the headquarters office until he was transferred to the Sacramento district office. Bacon graduated from Santa Ana High School and attended Santa Ana College where he completed the A.A. degree in electrical engineering in geology from University of California, Berkeley, and

took several graduate courses while acting as service manager for Tupper and Reed Music Co. In 1959, Bacon was hired by the Department of Water Resources where he served as engineering geologist until 1970 when he was hired by the division.

Barrows, geologist in the Los Angeles district office, was born in New London, Conn. He received his B.A. degree in geology from Dartmouth College in 1962 and began working on his M.S. and Ph. D. degrees at University of California, Los Angeles. While in school, Barrows worked in various capacities for the U. S. Geological Survey and with asbestos and insulating for the Canadian Johns-Manville Co. Barrows came to work for the Division in 1969 after the completion of his Ph. D. degree.

DMG retirement dinner set Jan. 19

San Francisco--A dinner honoring Gordon B. Oakeshott, who will retire as deputy chief of the Division of Mines and Geology on Dec. 31, and Fenelon F. Davis, who will retire Jan. 31, will be held Jan. 19 at the Engineers Club, Bank of Hong Kong Bldg., 160 Sansome St.

The dinner will be served at 7:30 and will be preceded by a no-host "happy hour" commencing at 6 p.m.

In connection with the retirement party for the two men, the division is planning to assemble a memory book for each containing appropriate letters from their friends, photos, clippings and other memorabilia.



Veteran rangers

Twenty-two of the 23 field district rangers of the South Sierra District explored analysis and planning aspects of fire prevention at a week-long pilot workshop at Coalinga recently. The group averaged 24 years of CDF service, including 17 at various supervisory levels.

Text of Hunter's talk

Monterey--The Division of Forestry-- "from a newcomer's viewpoint"--was the theme used by Director Ray Hunter as he addressed the annual conference of the California Division of Forestry Employees Assn.--CDFEA--here on Dec. 1.

The text of the director's talk follows:

Thank you for this opportunity to meet with you today in this beautiful and historic community to review the past, to examine the present, and to look into the future of what we all know to be one of the greatest fire fighting forces in the world.

Because I am new, at least in the technical sense that I have been the director of the Department of Conservation for only a few weeks, I believe I can look at the past, the present and the future from a perspective that will be beneficial and informative to all of us.

In discussing these matters with you today, I make no pretense of being "one of the boys" for it is obvious that you are the career men -- the professionals of the California Division of Forestry. Just as obvious is the fact that Gov. Reagan has appointed me director of the Department of Conservation and charged me with the responsibility of administering a department -- including the California Division of Forestry-- that will provide the best service possible to the people of California.

I cannot provide that service alone, I need your help. In return, I pledge that your work will not go unnoticed, unrecognized, and unappreciated.

Gov. Reagan, on behalf of the people of California, does appreciate each of you and the fine effort you have made.

Some people will try to tell you how bad things are and how you are not getting your fair share. Well, as the newcomer to this official family, I have made it my business to look over the organization as it is today and as it has been and I am convinced things are not so bad after all.

It is appropriate at this point that we take a look backward, that we look at the efforts that have been made during the past six years to improve the benefits received by you as state employees and, particularly as members of the California Division of Forestry.

In order to support the statements I am about to make, it will be necessary to cite a lot of statistics and a lot of dollar figures. Please bear with me. Let me cite you a total dollar figure: \$12,183,000. Twelve million dollars -- give or take a few cents -- represents a lot of cash no matter how you look at it. I use the figure here because it is the total value of retirement benefits work week reductions, pay raises, and other improved employee benefits for the Division of Forestry since 1968.

Let's look at just one major item, retirement.

The new retirement system, requested by the department and approved by Gov. Reagan in 1970, has an annual value of about \$1.4 million a year.

Next, let's look at another important factor, the duty work week. Just over a year ago, the work week for fire suppression classes -- except for seasonal fire fighters -- was reduced from 96 to 84 hours at the request of the department and with the support of Gov. Reagan. The important milestone was obviously a necessary change. It was accomplished with no direct cost to the state, but the equivalent dollar value to the employees, in terms of additional time off, amounted to well over one million dollars.

The reduction to 84 hours was consistent with the primary mission of the Division of Forestry -- wildland fire protection. Because that is our primary mission, further reduction is impractical.

The same can be said of the reduction of the work day of fire crew foremen from nine to eight hours -- at a value of approximately \$110,000.

Additionally, the work week for ranger I's, forester I's and fire prevention officer II's has been reduced from 120 to 106 hours a week.

The substantial improvements in your retirement benefits and the decrease in your work hours are, of course, important to you. I recognize, however, that the most important benefit of all is the one you see in the "net" column of your pay check stub.

Let's review: 1968, a five percent general salary increase; 1969, a six percent general salary increase; 1970 a five percent general salary increase; 1972, an 11-1/2 or 12-1/2 percent inequity and general salary increase for the forestry and fire suppression group which is you! These increases for you totaled \$6.2 million dollars, resulting in an increase in take home pay and also increasing the base retirement rate.

Incidentally, of this total, the cost of increasing the seasonal fire fighter's pay alone was \$356,700. Over this same period of time increases in alternate range payments and the "breakthrough" of cash overtime payments totaled an additional \$1,143,200.

These 1972 adjustments would have been one percent greater but the Federal Pay Board has just released the denial of that one percent. Those ranger I's who received the 22-1/2 percent increase this year, received the highest single salary adjustment, to my knowledge, among state employees.

Gov. Reagan has made it very clear that with Phase II of his salary program, additional pay raises and additional eliminations of inequities are in the offing for the coming fiscal year.

Most of you received my Nov. 3 memorandum reviewing Gov. Reagan's announcement concerning Phase II of the salary inequity program. Let there be no misunderstanding: Phase II will be included in the budget now being finalized by Gov. Reagan.

Salary plan

Also -- as you will read in the December *Communique* -- I have expressed my views on the salary question to the State Personnel Board. This is part of what I said in my letter to the Board:

"As you know, Governor Reagan announced last spring that funds are to be earmarked in the 1973-74 budget to implement the second phase of civil service salary increases to correct remaining salary inequities.

"This commitment was reiterated by the governor this month. I wish to go on record as lending my complete support to the governor's program. Further, I would encourage the (Personnel) Board, as the governor has suggested, to follow the same rules for the second phase as were followed for the first phase of the salary inequity program.

"The salary inequity program has been enthusiastically endorsed by the majority of the department's employees. It has, though, created several parity problems especially with the engineering classes in the Division of Forestry.

"In addition, department and Personnel Board staffs are in the process of reviewing the current method of accounting for overtime earned during the fire season and in jointly developing a simplified forestry compensation plan....

I have just handed six copies of this proposed package to CDFEA President Bud Armstrong for review by representatives of CDFEA.

Let's move on to some other miscellaneous benefits that you have received. Take the area of health insurance, for example. There has been a \$2 increase each year per employee member since 1968. The cost to the taxpayer has been \$297,000 for one year. Also, there have been improvements in workmen's compensation.

The final steps have been taken to implement payment of uniform allowances -- an expenditure approved earlier this year by Gov. Reagan. This program provides up to \$142 per year for replacement of CDF-prescribed uniforms, at probable cost of \$356,000.

For those of you who are required to wear uniforms on a fulltime basis, we are working now so that your initial uniform replacement allowance will be in your hands this month -- December. Thereafter, you will receive your replacement allowances on an annual basis.

The look at where we have been in recent years must also include the alterations in the geography of ranger units and districts as well as the staffing patterns.

Where we are

This close look at the past few years provides us with a better view of where we are today.

The improvements in such things as employee benefits, salaries, and the administration of the Division of Forestry have allowed us to "keep abreast of the times" -- if I may be permitted to use a cliché to sum up my feelings.

As a rookie among you, I am satisfied with the job that has been done but I am not satisfied that we have reached the pinnacle. As servants of the public, I do not believe there is a pinnacle when it comes to providing that service.

We have a strong tradition, we have an excellent record; but you as employees -- you as taxpayers -- cannot permit any of you to say this is good enough. As we look at the present, as we look to the future, we must recognize that there will be many changes and that some of these changes may affect us personally.

That, then, is the past and some of the present as I see it. But what of tomorrow?

Because I am new on this job, I consider it part of my obligation to review and evaluate all of the operations of the California Division of Forestry. I am in the process of doing this now.

Camp program

One change which is becoming more and more obvious is the impact on the division -- and each of you -- of the continuing decline in the number of state prison inmates assigned to our conservation camps.

You have made a success, during the past 18 months, of the California Ecology Corps program. But, the Ecology Corps is not -- and cannot be -- the only alternative to the camp program.

Other concepts -- such as the use of federal prisoners at Parlin Fork, county prisoners at Crystal Creek and in San Diego County, and narcotics addicts at Norco in southern California -- have been adopted and appear to also be successful.

Nevertheless, the original problem of declining inmate counts is still with us and will continue to be a pressing problem.

It is our hope that we will be able to continue as we have in the past to make adjustments within the conservation camp program without the necessity of laying off any employees. This is our goal.

Along with this forced change are some new directions in how you handle your job. The advent of "air power" -- for fire suppression and its related functions -- will quite obviously play an increasingly important role in the future. As you know, we have been looking at all of the air resources available, and, where feasible, applying those resources as tools to aid you.

Also, I encourage new technical research programs. These programs will be implemented where they improve our capabilities.

Among the other significant areas which I am evaluating is training -- training of all employees, including managers.

I commend the division's leadership for the outstanding work that is being done in providing you with technical training at the Lone Academy. This program will continue, and, where possible, it will be expanded.

Additionally, I am going to expand our efforts to train our managers to do a better job with the resources available to them. The result, I believe, will be increased administrative efficiency.

Safety awareness

I am sure that most of you are aware that, in addition to the employee salary and benefit increases which I enumerated earlier, there has been a sizeable increase in the department's budget for safety equipment. I consider safety to be of considerable importance, and I cannot stress too strongly the role of the supervisors in providing the guidance that is necessary -- especially considering the hazardous work you are doing.

We are about to enter a new year, and it will bring change.

One change, surely, will result from the new compensation plan and method of accounting for your overtime, which I mentioned earlier, and which is described in the information I have handed to your president.

I know you will give the package a thorough review; after you have done so, let me know your thoughts.

This change and others will, hopefully, be viewed by each of you as improvement. No matter how well we have done our jobs in the past, and you have indeed done yours well, we must keep up with the times -- and we must meet the new challenges of the times.

As we continue to change and improve, we continue to serve the people of California as best we can. And, after all, that is our mission as public servants: To serve as best we can.

By Ray Rothermel

Oil & Gas Correspondent

Long Beach--On Dec. 7, Director Ray Hunter and Deputy Director Ed Gladish toured portions of the Torrance and Wilmington oil fields with Oil and Gas Supervisor John Matthews Jr. and the Southern Region and District 1 deputies.

The tour began in the Del Amo Financial Center in Torrance where a good example of compatibility of oil operations and other land use was observed. More than 25 wells located in and around this multimillion dollar complex have been camouflaged to such an extent that there is almost no visible sign of oil operations.

The next area visited was the Townlot area of Torrance oil field, where both good and bad examples of oil well "housekeeping" were observed. Where producing wells are located on city-sized lots within a residential area, compatibility is not so easy to achieve, although progress is being made.

The next stop was the newly unitized Townlot area of Wilmington field where Humble Oil and Refining Company is currently centralizing and revamping production facilities throughout an area of more than 1,200 acres. The program includes excavation of 80 miles of streets for the laying of pipelines, cleanup of well sites, removal of more than 350 oil tank batteries, and construction of a central water injection plant and oil gathering facilities.

Following the Wilmington Townlot visit, T.S. Richards, president of THUMS Long Beach Co., hosted a tour of Island Grissom, one of four offshore islands built in the inner Long Beach Harbor to develop the giant east Wilmington oil field. Island Grissom, which has been used to drill more than 180 wells, has been landscaped with palm trees and waterfalls, and is probably the best example of offshore oil development with minimal effect on the environment.

The tour ended at the District 1 office where the director was given a briefing on District 1 and offshore operations.

Hunter, Gladish tour oil facilities in LA area



Apartment
complex?
Nope--oil wells

Aerial view of Island Grissom with downtown Long Beach in the background. This was one of the facilities visited earlier this month by Director Ray Hunter and other officials as part of the continuing orientation the new director is receiving concerning activities of the division of the Department of Conservation.--Photo courtesy Long Beach Dept. of Oil Properties.

Live-in meals can be deducted

By Joseph P. DeLu

Administrative Advisor, CDF

Many of our firemen who are required to live-in and pay for their meals which are furnished them by the state may not be aware that their cost of these meals may be deducted from gross income. Notice I say *gross income*, not the adjusted income. In other words, if you earn \$600 a month and you were charged \$20 a month for meals that are furnished you at the station, you could declare your income as \$600 less \$20--or \$580.

This can amount to a substantial tax saving. Authority for this is Section 119, Income Tax Code, which, in essence, states that the value of meals furnished by the employer for the convenience of the employer shall be deducted from the gross income of an employee.

Whether or not the meals are furnished for the convenience of the employer is a question of fact. Where a fireman--such as those of the Division of Forestry--is required to live-in so as to be available day or night comes well within the rule.

The meals must be furnished during the employee's working hours. Also in a situation where the employee is restricted to a short meal period and cannot be expected to go elsewhere during that time, the value of the meals charged to him is deductible.

Although there are no rulings precisely on the question of a fireman's right to deduct meals, I can cite other employment where the question has been resolved:

- * Value of meals and lodging furnished a civilian employee by the United States Navy where work was on California off-shore islands.

- * Lodging furnished a physician at a Veterans Administration hospital.

- * A state employee was permitted to deduct meals where he was required to live at his place of employment subject to call day or night.

- * A state mental hospital employee required to be on a 24-hour call.

- * Employees of a state school where required to live-in.

Belotti dies

Eureka--State Assemblyman Frank P. Belotti, author of numerous laws of direct concern to the Division of Forestry--including the one lowering the duty week of division fire suppression personnel--died here on Nov. 30.

Belotti, 74, a member of the Assembly Natural Resources and Conservation Committee, did not seek reelection last November and would have left the Legislature on Jan. 1. He was first elected 22 years ago.

Maintenance plan discussed

Sacramento--Personnel in the Division of Forestry's Design and Construction Unit met with district lead engineers and construction inspectors here on Dec. 5-7.

A major topic was maintenance of Division of Forestry physical facilities and standards of maintenance. Proposed statewide maintenance standards will be given final review by several of the field technical personnel before issuance statewide.

11 from COD program pass exams for FAE slots

By Cherie Carson

Assistant Employment Opportunities Officer

Sacramento--Results of the civil service examination given in November for the position of fire apparatus engineer show that 11 of the 20 fire control aids hired under the Career Opportunities Development program passed and are eligible for promotion to permanent employment as FAE.

The Career Opportunities Development--COD--program currently operating in the Division of Forestry was established last year to provide a means for seasonal forestry employees who would ordinarily have little opportunity for permanent employment to pursue a career in the division.

The COD program was originally implemented under the supervision of L. T. (Pete) Petersen, a deputy state forester who was under temporary assignment as employment opportunities officer for the department.

The 1971 group of about 30 participants was selected from over 100 applicants. The group was then sent to the Division of Forestry Fire Academy at Ione for a week of orientation and diagnostic testing. The following week they were sent to southern California to complete the fire season, returning to their home districts after the season's end.

Last January the group returned to the fire academy for five weeks of intensive training. There they were taught all of the necessary subject matters requisite to the class of fire control aid. The academy schedule included physical examinations which were given during the first week. Those fire control aid trainees lacking a high school diploma or "GED" equivalency were given programmed learning material to study on their own time. At the conclusion of the fire academy class, the COD program enrollees had to successfully pass the fire control aid examination given soon after, a 100 pct.-structured oral conducted on a regional basis.

Upon completion of the academy training, participants returned to their ranger units for further on-the-job training and experience.

"The fact that half of the graduates of the 1971 COD class has successfully completed the latest FAE exam and have been placed on the promotional list indicates that training efforts and assistance given the participants by all levels of forestry personnel have contributed greatly to their success," said Director Ray Hunter.

The new 1972 COD class has completed training and has been assigned to various field units.

Smokey's irritated cousin

Mountain Home--Smokey Bear has a California cousin that's a little irritated over the hospitality extended by Mountain Home State Forest. However, forest custodian Dick Schoenheide isn't too happy with the intruding guest either.

The bear's innocuous inspection trip of the accommodations at Old Mountain Home turned out to be a nightmare for both, with Tulare Ranger Ray Banks additionally caught in the middle. Unfortunately Ray had already occupied the guest residence and was eagerly traipsing through the forest hunting (bears logically) when the bear came calling.

The bumbling bruin found the cabin unattended but his luck ended suddenly. A swipe of a powerful paw shattered the unopened front window, splintering the frame and pane. He tried to squeeze inside, but only his head and shoulders would fit the opening. Indignantly, he tugged and clawed and chewed, shredding the accessible end of a newly donated sofa into cotton waste. Giving up, he tried another window at the back of the house.

Results were both better and worse. The determined bruin managed to find a window big enough to shinny inside but he cut a paw on a glass sliver while bashing out the window. Once inside the cabin, the aroma of waiting food soon made him forget his bleeding paw and he headed straight for the refrigerator.

Opening it took a little too long as he was interrupted by Schoenheide and assistant manager Frank Lemelin who arrived to see how Ray was getting along. The bear retreated without argument, crashing outside through the broken window to head for the wilds far away.

After surveying the scene, the hostellers promptly shuttered the cabin against further assaults, muttering that nature's family had finally struck back against ill-mannered forest visitors.

Talk about a close call!

Transfer Point, Butte Co.--Fire Capt. Wayne Kyle experienced a close call recently while driving southbound along Highway 32 in a firetruck.

All of a sudden, about 40 yards in front of the truck, lightning struck a Sugar Pine tree. "Debris from the tree flew in all directions," Kyle said, before he could get stopped.

A 16-foot section of the tree, weighing in excess of 200 pounds, "came from the sky" and struck the left rear corner of the firetruck.



Close call

Fire Capt. Wayne Kyle of the Transfer Point Fire Station in Butte County with evidence of mishap--a 16-foot chunk of sugar pine.

Tulare's new system

Visalia--The Division of Forestry has established six major alarm-receiving centers which went into operation Dec. 1, allowing a simplified method of reporting fires in Tulare County's unincorporated areas.

Ranger Ray Banks said the centers have been established to provide the best possible service to telephone callers with little or no additional cost. The changes will be listed on the first page of new telephone directories which will be distributed shortly in the county.

Adhesive stickers with the new numbers are available at division fire stations and these can be attached to telephones for ready reference.

Firm named for employee benefit survey

By Richard L. Camilli

State Personnel Board

Sacramento--The State Personnel Board has hired the consulting firm of Cresap, McCormick and Paget to conduct an independent study of employee benefits in California. Twenty-five firms were asked to submit proposals on how they would do this study, 12 responded and from this group the firm that seemed best able to do the overall job was selected.

This study will provide:

1--An independent view of prevailing salaries outside of state service.

2--Information which is not now available on prevailing employee benefits.

The consulting firm is expected to carefully review present practices and methods relating to salaries and benefits. It

will seek information from state agency managers and employee representatives.

The firm will draw its own conclusions from its study and make recommendations based upon its independent judgment. The purpose of the study is to assure both employees and the general public that the state's compensation program is fair and equitable. The firm started work early this month and will complete the job sometime in April 1973.

Gov. Reagan has emphasized that this private study will not affect his commitment to fund Phase II of the salary program. In developing its recommendations concerning salary adjustment fund needs, the SPB followed the same approach it has been using.

Long Beach

Oil & Gas moves district office

By Ray Rothermel

Oil & Gas Correspondent

Long Beach--On Nov. 13, after more than 15 years in Inglewood, the District 1 office of the Division of Oil and Gas was relocated in a new office at 5199 East Pacific Coast Hwy., Long Beach.

The new office, which occupies most of the third floor annex of the American City Bank Building, has floor-to-ceiling windows along one entire side, affording an excellent view of "fabulous" Signal Hill. Signal Hill is part of the Long Beach oil field which produced 68 million barrels of oil annually just two years after discovery in 1921.

Many of the District 1 personnel have already taken advantage of some of the quaint and picturesque restaurants as well

as enjoying noontime walks through the nearby park. In addition to being out of the downtown smog and traffic snarl, the office is less than one mile from the Long Beach airport and almost ideally located between three giant oil fields. (Long Beach, Wilmington, and Huntington Beach).

An unofficial poll of many of the oil operators in the Los Angeles Basin indicated a very favorable attitude toward the move, and access to the public has also been increased. Field surveillance by division engineers has been improved as travel time to the more active fields has been reduced.

One intangible benefit for division sportsmen is Recreation Park Golf Course, located about a 9-iron away across Pacific Coast Highway.

25 year awards

Sacramento--Three Division of Forestry employees will mark 25 years of service on Jan. 1.

Donald W. Conarroe is a ranger I in Amador-El Dorado Ranger unit. John C. Dowdakin is a forester II at Central Coast District headquarters in Monterey. Harold C. Rolland is a ranger II assigned to Southern California District headquarters at Riverside.

Willits, Mendocino

Co.--Ranger II Marlin Boucher was presented his 25-year pin and service award by Assistant Deputy Jim Denny during a ceremony recently at Chamberlain Creek Conservation Camp.



Boucher

Boucher is in charge of the camp, which is expected to reopen later as the second conservation camp to be occupied by federal inmates. (Neighboring Parlin Fork is the other one.)

The presentation to Boucher occurred on the opening night of two weeks of Spanish language classes being put on by University of California at Davis (extension department) in anticipation of the change to the federal prisoners, who are Mexican nationals under sentence for immigration offenses.

Examination calendar

Division of Forestry

Class	Final filing date	Exam date
Heavy fire equipment operator (Open and promotional)	Dec. 29 Jan. 5	Jan. 20 Jan. 27
Fire captain (promotional)	Jan. 5	Jan. 27
State forest ranger II (promotional)	Jan. 5	Jan. 27
State forest ranger III (promotional)	Jan. 5	Jan. 27
Fire apparatus engineer (Open and promotional)	Feb. 2	Feb. 24

Division of Mines & Geology

Division of Oil & Gas

Division of Resource Conservation

Executive & Management Services

No examinations scheduled whose final filing date is Jan. 1, 1973, or later.

Memorial for fire victims

Santa Ysabel, San Diego Co.--Eleven persons--a Division of Forestry employee among them--killed fighting the 1956 Inaja fire have been honored in a memorial service conducted near the site of the tragedy.

Seven of the men who died in the 44,500-acre fire, which burned for 5 1/2 days, were from a county honor camp. Soon after the ashes of the fire cooled, fellow inmates--some of whom had escaped the flames themselves--started construction of a memorial park.

The memorial service was conducted at the park, located at the edge of the grade from Santa Ysabel to Wynola, along Highway 78-79. The park is also the starting point for the Inaja Nature Trail in Cleveland National Forest.

The 11 victims included Carlton Ray Lingo, 19 at the time, who was a Division of Forestry truck driver at Descanso.

Complete training

Ione--A class of 26 students has completed the LE-3 and LE-4 Basic Peace Officer training classes at the CDF Fire Academy here. The class included three from the U. S. Forest Service and three from East Bay Municipal Utility Dist.

A message from the director

Mrs. Hunter and I have concluded that the motto of my current life style could well be, *Have suitcase and new job--will travel!* As this is written--during a brief "in between" period following a visit to Forestry's North Coast District and Sierra Cascade District, I have chalked up visits to every district operation of each division except the Bakersfield headquarters of the Division of Oil and Gas; and the Los Angeles district headquarters for the Division of Mines and Geology. And I'm going to both places in the next few days.

It's not that I like to travel; the schedule has been pretty hectic, between these official visits and trying to pay a little attention to what's happening beneath the stack of papers that I used to recognize as my desk.

Still, visits to field installations are important to the proper and orderly administration of the department and divisions. Because I am new to this job, I believe it is my duty to closely examine the total picture of our activities. This, I feel, is beneficial to me and to you, as well as to the people of California who pay close to \$50 million a year to keep us in business.

The information I garner as I make these visits--and as I review the issues that confront me in Sacramento--is

helpful to me in charting the future programs and setting the goals and priorities of the Department of Conservation.

The meetings I have had with many of you, both in Sacramento and elsewhere, have provided me with some excellent information.

All of this activity on my part does not imply instant change; nor does it imply any change at all. Nevertheless, some things will be forthcoming in 1973.

For example, I am a firm believer in training, not only for our newer employees and those working at or near the "entry" levels, but for those in middle- and top-management categories. Thus, you will see increased emphasis in this area in the year that is ahead.

Also, for some of my specific thoughts concerning our largest division, Forestry, I invite you to read the text of the talk I gave during the annual conference of the California Division of Forestry Employees Assn. in Monterey earlier this month.

I conclude this report to you by expressing my sincere best wishes for a joyous holiday season and for a happy new year.

Inside job on red tape

Redding--State employees here--including representatives of the Division of Forestry--are involved in a project to cut inter-agency red tape.

The Redding State Agencies Council meets monthly for informal discussions of inter-agency problems.

DOG's drafting chief Curo retires after 41 years

Sacramento--Garold W. Curo, drafting supervisor for the Division of Oil and Gas, will retire Dec. 30 after 41 years of state service.

Curo, who has been an employee of the division for 31 years, first joined in 1936 after transferring from the Division of Highways.

During his military service with the California National Guard in World War II, he distinguished himself as a pistol marksman by setting seven national records and achieving third place ranking

in NRA competition.

Curo holds an amateur radio operator's license. His station, WAG AWQ, is presently off the air pending erection of a new antenna.

Garold and his wife, La Rene, have one son, Forrest. The Curos presently reside at 2700 Land Park Dr., Sacramento, but are contemplating a return to their former home in South San Francisco. Curo plans to return to school soon to study communication equipment.



Director Ray Hunter, as he travels the state to acquaint himself with the various activities of the department and divisions, has frequently found himself face-to-face with reporters and cameramen. Here Hunter, left, is interviewed by Art McEwen, KSBW-TV, Salinas, Fire Prevention Officer Art Jaseau is on the right.-CDF photo.

Howard Burnett retires; worked 20 years as HFEO

By Fred Trask

Susanville--Heavy Fire Equipment Operator Howard Burnett has retired from state service after 20 years with the Division of Forestry.

Burnett was born in Crescent City and attended Porterville High School.

He first came to work for the division in April 1951 as a forest fire truck driver in Lassen County and on May 1 he became HFEO.

From 1953-56 Howard worked at Magalia Conservation Camp in Butte County. Then he transferred to Lassen County where he worked for the last 16 years. Howard retires as a HFEO from the headquarters equipment shop in Susanville.

Howard was honored Dec. 2 at a party given by his co-workers. Ranger Jack Burke presented a letter, certificate of appreciation and retirement gifts came from appreciative co-workers.



Ranger Burke and Howard Burnett